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INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction

Programme budget implications of draft resolution
A/C.2/48/L.24

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 6 to 10, 13, 14 and 17 of draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.24, the General Assembly would:

(a) Convene the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in 1994 with the following objectives:

(i) To review the accomplishments of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction at national, regional and international levels;

(ii) To chart a programme of action for the future;

(iii) To exchange information on the implementation of Decade programmes and policies;

(iv) To increase awareness of the importance of disaster reduction policies;

(b) Accept with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Japan to host the Conference, and decide that the Conference will be held at Yokohama, Japan, from 23 to 27 May 1994;

(c) Decide to establish a Preparatory Committee which will meet at Geneva no later than February 1994 for five days to review organizational and substantive preparations for the Conference, to approve the programme of work of the Conference and to propose rules of procedure for adoption by the Conference, on the basis of recommendations submitted by the secretariat of the Decade, after consultation with the host country;

(d) Request the secretariat of the Decade to serve as the secretariat of the Conference and to coordinate preparatory activities in close cooperation with the host Government and the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, with the full support of relevant departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat;

(e) Recognize the importance of broad and multidisciplinary participation in the Conference and, to this end, request the Secretary-General to invite to the Conference all States, national committees for the Decade and organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as concerned intergovernmental organizations and scientific associations, relevant non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

(f) Decide that the preparatory process and the Conference itself should be funded through existing budgetary resources, without negatively affecting programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

(g) Request the Secretary-General to appeal to all Member States to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the financing of the additional activities required in preparing for and holding the Conference;

(h) Request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including the findings of the mid-term review of the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to be carried out by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994.

B. Relationship of proposed requests to the medium-term plan and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

2. The requests contained in paragraph 1 above would relate to major programme VII (Human rights, fundamental freedoms and humanitarian affairs), programme 37 (Emergency humanitarian assistance), subprogramme 2 (Disaster prevention and preparedness) of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 1/ and to section 23 (Department of Humanitarian Affairs) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. 2/

C. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

3. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.24, the secretariat for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) would serve as the secretariat for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, and would coordinate the preparatory activities in close cooperation with the host Government and the Preparatory Committee for the Conference. It would also prepare the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

D. Additional requirements at full cost

4. The full cost of providing conference servicing for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, to be held from 23 to 27 May 1994, and one session of its Preparatory Committee, to be held at Geneva in 1994, is estimated at $709,600 as detailed below. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/243, the additional costs of convening the Conference outside Geneva would be the responsibility of the host Government.

(a) World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction - 5 days

Conference-servicing costs

	$
Pre-session documentation (250 pages, 12 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	274 000
Meeting servicing (Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S)	120 600
In-session documentation (125 pages, 10 documents: A,C,E,F,R,S)	140 300
Post-session documentation (50 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	53 700
Total	588 600

(b) Preparatory Committee - 5 days

Conference-servicing costs

	$
Pre-session documentation (20 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	21 900
Meeting servicing (Interpretation: A,C,E,F,R,S)	60 300
In-session documentation (15 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	16 900
Post-session documentation (20 pages, 1 document: A,C,E,F,R,S)	21 900
Total	121 000
Grand total for conference-servicing costs:	709,600

5. It is also estimated that the secretariat for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction would require the services of additional staff and consultants to assist with the preparatory process and the proceedings of the Conference. These and other costs related to the preparatory process and the convening of the Conference, which would be funded through extrabudgetary resources, are summarized below:

Additional IDNDR secretariat requirements:

	$
General temporary assistance (equivalent to 5 months each for 3 P-5 and 3 GS (other level) posts)	272 500
Overtime	10 000
Consultants' fees and travel	70 000
Travel of staff	50 000
Hospitality	25 000
General operating expenses	67 000
Production and dissemination of promotional material	150 000
Total	644 500

6. Furthermore, it is anticipated that travel and daily subsistence costs to attend the Conference would be incurred for the 25 members of the Scientific and Technical Committee and the 10 members of the Special High-level Council and for one representative of each least developed country. These costs would be funded through extrabudgetary resources and are summarized below:

Travel and daily subsistence costs of participants:

		$
(a)	Travel and subsistence costs for members of the Special High-level Council and the Scientific and Technical Committee to participate in the Conference	206 800
(b)	Travel and subsistence costs for representatives of least developed countries to participate in the Conference	233 400
	Total	440 200

E. Potential for absorption

7. With regard to the conference-servicing requirements of $709,600, these cost estimates are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing costs would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under section 25 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, and that additional resources would be required for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences for 1994-1995. However, the level of resources for temporary assistance for meetings has been estimated on the basis of previous experience to accommodate not only meetings known at the time of the budget preparations, but also meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the biennium 1994-1995 was consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 25 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolution.

F. Summary

8. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/48/L.24, no additional appropriation would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

9. The additional costs which would be incurred by the IDNDR secretariat ($644,500) and the travel and subsistence costs for members of the Special High-level Council and the Scientific and Technical Committee, and for representatives of the least developed countries ($440,200) would be funded through the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources.

Notes

1/ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/47/6/Rev.1), vol. II.

2/ A/48/6 (Sect. 23).